

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14603 101805Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /053 W
-----030327 120331Z /73

R 101710Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0994
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14603

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV BQG
SUBJECT: FRG DECIDES TO DROP EVEN "INTERIM SOLUTION"
FOR NATIONAL STIFTUNG

REFS: (A) BONN 8667; (B) STATE 123720

1. AT THE MARCH 9 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP
(VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE
NATIONAL STIFTUNG WAS DISCUSSED AT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
BY SCHMIDT, GENSCHER, BAUM AND WISCHNEWSKI, ET AL.,
ON JULY 12. AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION, IT HAS SINCE
BEEN DECIDED THAT THE FUNDS EARMARKED FOR THE NATIONAL
STIFTUNG SHOULD BE PUT TO USE FOR THE PLANNED PURPOSES
BY THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. THE MINISTER
SHALL CONVENE FOR THIS PURPOSE A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS,
WHICH WILL CONSULT WITH HIM AS TO THE USE OF THE FUNDS.
THE CABINET WILL BE INFORMED SOON AS WILL THE MINISTER
PRESIDENTS OF THE LAENDER AT THEIR NEXT MEETING WITH
THE CHANCELLOR.

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2. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT TO
SEE HOW THE LAENDER MINISTER PRESIDENTS REACT. IF THERE
ARE NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES, THE PROBLEM OF NEW
INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN OR EVEN OF AN EXPANSION OF AN
EXISTING INSTITUTION IS "OFF THE TABLE."

3. COMMENT: THE SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE BONN GROUP SINCE MAY 8 (REF A). WE HAVE SINCE INFORMALLY TOLD VON BRAUNMUEHL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS (REF B). THE BRITISH RECEIVED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS TO OURS, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THESE HAVE NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. UNLIKE US, THE FRENCH APPEAR TO REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE "INTERIM SOLUTION" ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS FACT.

4. WHILE THE FRG'S DECISION IS NO DOUBT BASED IN PART AT LEAST ON THE ALLIED VIEWS, AND ESPECIALLY THE EXPECTATION THAT THE FRENCH WOULD REMAIN DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE, SCHMIDT'S REPORTED COOLNESS TOWARD THE NATIONAL STIFTUNG IDEA AS WELL AS THE STATE OF FRG/ SOVIET RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE BREZHNEV VISIT WERE PROBABLY THE DECIDING FACTORS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN14603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-1126
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780875/aaaacbj.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2db25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 8667, 78 STATE 123720
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1772791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG DECIDES TO DROP EVEN "INTERIM SOLUTION" FOR NATIONAL STIFTUNG
TAGS: PGOV, GC, GE, BQG, NATIONAL STIFTUNG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2db25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014